

545th MPs Teach, Mentor Iraqi Police

By Cpl. Bill Putnam
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD -- Like many cities trying to curb violence in our own county, Iraq has instituted a curfew.

Staff Sgt. Chad Cook, a military police squad leader in 1st platoon, 545th Military Police Company, sat in an Iraqi police chief's office Nov. 11 and explained how the newly imposed national curfew would work.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi imposed a national 60-day curfew just after the attack on Fallujah started. Everyone had to be indoors by 10:30 p.m. or they would be arrested.

The IPs had some questions for Cook about the curfew, such as, what could they do if they caught someone violating the curfew.

"Search them and the car. If they have no legitimate business, they get one warning," Cook said. He added people will be arrested if they are caught again."

Every day different elements of the 545th MPs, head

out to IP stations throughout Baghdad's Al Rashid District. It's a fun and interesting job for many of them but it's not without hazards.

Advising the IPs is the biggest reason for being out at the stations, some of the MPs in Cook's squad said.

"It's good that we're out here," said Spc. Hector Cerna, 545th MP. "[The IPs] like that we're working with them, training with them and giving them classes when we can."

Because both he and the IPs are policemen, Cerna said he really likes going out and working with them.

"Me as an MP and them as IPs, we pretty much have the same job," he said.

Cerna said the IPs aren't afraid. They'll fight back when they're attacked. And, more importantly, they want to get out and take the streets back from the insurgents and terrorists.

"They want their country back and they want their freedom," Cerna said.

Back at Fort Hood, the unit trained for operations



Photos by Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Marcus White, a military police with 545th Military Police Company, waits to leave Camp Al Saqr in Baghdad's Al Rashid District.

and missions like this one, said Cerna. The company is applying their training here in a real-world situation and there's a lot of satisfaction in that, he noted.

"So it's good to help them and come out here and say 'hey, this is what we know,'" Cerna said. "We teach them and a lot of them put it to use."

The teaching Cerna talked about includes patrolling techniques, field interrogation, and the searching of vehicles and personnel.

Although she doesn't work directly with the IPs very often, Pfc. Elena Fuentes said she's seen the IPs improve since she arrived here from Fort Hood, Texas.

"Up until the last couple of weeks, the platoon really hasn't seen too much contact

so far," Fuentes said. That changed around Nov. 1 when the insurgents started taking notice of them.

They weren't sure why things became more active for them. Maybe it was Ramadan or perhaps that their luck had just run out. As Cpl. William McDaniel and Fuentes pulled guard duty at an Iraqi Police station in Al Rashid, they contemplated why the platoon's first seven months in Baghdad were as quiet as a church mouse. In the last two weeks, events have taken a 180-degree turn.

They've been hit by improvised explosive devices, and shot at while on patrol or on station.

"We don't normally look for trouble," Fuentes said. "But it definitely looks for us."



Staff Sgt. Chad Cook, a squad leader in 1st Platoon, 545th Military Police Company, talks to a civilian police adviser the platoon works with to the train and mentor the Iraqi Police.



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Sgt. Max Picco, 31, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team receives congratulation for his heroic actions during a mortar attack. Picco responded and treated 75 wounded Iraqi Soldiers while under mortar fire.

Medic Disregards Own Life to Save Iraqi Soldiers

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns
39th BCT Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Sgt. Max Picco, 31, of North Manchester, Ind., said after the first mortar, he never heard the rest coming down. He was too busy trying to save the lives of Iraqi Soldiers.

During the mid-morning hours of Oct. 19, a forward operating base, located outside Taji, Iraq, came under attack by insurgents. Mortars rained down inside their five-acre base wounding more than 75 Soldiers.

Between six and eight mortars landed in their area but Picco said he only heard the first one. As soon as he saw the injured on the ground, he ran out to save the lives of the wounded Iraqi Soldiers despite the barrage of mortars still falling.

"I saw people down and I knew if I didn't get to them, people would die," said Picco, an eight-year veteran medic.

Picco was the only medic on the base and it would be another hour and a half before others were able to arrive.

At one point, witnesses say they saw Picco working on a chest wound with one hand, and at the same time he had another hand holding on a head dressing for a different patient while talking a combat lifesaver through treatment steps for yet another wounded individual.

"You get so focused that you don't ever really realize all the things going on around you," Picco said. "You just get focused on saving people's lives."

Five Iraqi Soldiers died that day but Picco's actions contributed to saving 75 others.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How do I get there?

kayf aSil hunaaq?

Thursday
High: 79
Low: 64



Friday
High: 79
Low: 62



Saturday
High: 77
Low: 60



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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SAFETY TIP

RECIPE FOR A ROLLOVER

- A dark night
- Minimal illumination
- No night vision devices
- Unfamiliar terrain

Mix in a couple of Soldiers, both more interested in spotting aggressors than watching the ground around them and allow a few minutes for the mixture to come together. Result: one HMMWV "parked" in an anatomically incorrect position. The good news is that the Soldiers were wearing their seatbelts and Kevlar and walked away unhurt.



WEAR YOUR PROTECTIVE GEAR. IT PAYS

News Notes

Wasteful Man Gets Trashed

HONOLULU (AP) -- A grand jury has indicted a man accused of discharging wastewater from a septic tank truck in the Hilo Forest Reserve. David Kerwin of Kailua-Kona partially emptied the contents of his truck, which contained human urine and feces. The case was another in a series brought by the area's Environmental Crime Unit. Knowingly allowing or causing the discharge of wastewater onto the ground is a Class C felony, punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

Man Tries to Get Closer to Nature

NEW YORK (AP) -- A man was undergoing psychiatric evaluation after he jumped naked into a pool of carnivorous reptiles at the Bronx Zoo, authorities said. The episode happened when the man stripped off his clothes and climbed a five-foot wall surrounding the zoo's tank of caimans - a type of crocodile from Central and South America. He tried to touch one of the toothy lizards before police and zookeepers were called to the scene and pulled him out. "Thankfully, no one got hurt and it didn't happen while there were any school groups around," zoo spokesman Linda Corcoran told the Daily News for Saturday editions.

More Heavy Rains Possible in Austin

AUSTIN, Texas (*Austin American-Statesman*) -- A tornado touched down Tuesday in West Austin in a third day of sometimes heavy rain as the National Weather Service extended a flash flood watch for Central Texas through this afternoon.

Two funnel clouds were sighted Tuesday afternoon, one in West Austin and the other near Burnet, but no injuries were reported.

The one in Austin touched down about 4:30 p.m. in the Rob Roy neighborhood just west of Pennybacker Bridge on Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360). It toppled some trees and stripped others of their top branches.

Meanwhile, emergency teams this morning are expected to resume their search of the Blanco River near San Marcos for a woman thought to have drowned late Sunday when she tried to drive through a low-water crossing.

Laurie Pineda, 24, of Kyle was swept off the crossing in her four-door Buick



Austin American-Statesman

The clouds looked ominous Tuesday as storms moved through Central Texas. This funnel cloud was spotted over West Austin.

Century and into the river, which had risen 11 feet in a few hours because of heavy rain. A passenger was rescued.

The search resumes as a band of storms stretching from the Rio Grande to the Panhandle and moving east is expected to pummel the region through this afternoon, bringing as much as 3 inches of rain to most areas and possibly 6 inches in a few spots.

Meteorologists said the rains across Central Texas should ease by Thursday as an area of low pressure moves east out of Texas. Sunshine is expected to return Friday, but a repeat of rain early next week is possible.

River authority officials urge people who live along the Highland Lakes, their rivers and tributaries to closely monitor rainfall across the Colorado River basin.

Buffalo Soldiers Honored with Special Presentation at CTC

KILLEEN, Texas (*Killeen Daily Herald*) -- A Copperas Cove Junior High eighth-grader apparently got exactly what he was looking for Monday night when the 13-year-old visited Central Texas College for a special presentation on the Buffalo Soldier.

"I learned that even though the Buffalo Soldiers contributed to the wars, they did many honorable things for our country, but many of them were never respected or treated the same way as other Soldiers," said James Torres, noting this subject is "scarcely" talked about at his school.

James was attending the fifth presentation of the Center for African-American Studies and Research's lecture series in which featured an anthology of African-American military history, specifically on the Buffalo

Soldiers and a dramatic portrayal of the life and observations of Harriet Tubman.

While Trooper Paul Matthews provided his guests with a brief history of the Buffalo Soldiers and African-Americans in American wars, Melissa Thibodeaux inspired them with her portrayal of Harriet Tubman, and her role in the Underground Railroad titled, "Escape to Freedom."

"People don't understand the contribution of the Buffalo Soldiers," Matthews said. "Without the Buffalo Soldiers, the westward movement would have been delayed for years. And if you were traveling in West Texas between 1866 and 1876 and you were pinned down by the outlaws or the bad guys, who do you think was coming to rescue you? John Wayne?"



Austin American-Statesman

The plight of slaves enduring the Underground Railroad was brought to life Monday, as Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux gets into character before her performance as Harriet Tubman at Central Texas College in Killeen.



AP

Minnesota forward Kevin Garnett, left, drives against Miami center Shaquille O'Neal in Minneapolis, Tuesday. The Timberwolves beat the Heat 108-97.

Miami Not too Hot for Garnett

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- Dwyane Wade returned from his injury and played an amazing first half. The NBA MVP just did his usual thing, from start to finish.

Kevin Garnett came close to another triple-double, finishing with 25 points, 21 rebounds and eight assists for the Minnesota Timberwolves in a 108-97 victory over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

"That was an incredible performance," teammate Fred Hoiberg said.

Wade, after missing the last two games with a sprained left ankle, scored 20 of his 25 points in the first half for the Heat. Shaquille O'Neal added 20 points and 15 rebounds.

Garnett stole the show, though - surpassing 14,000 career points and guiding Minnesota's best all-around effort of the season. Wally Szczerbiak scored 21 points, and Sam Cassell added 19.

"Fourteen thousand, all with the Timberwolves - that says something in this day and age," Szczerbiak said.

The Heat, who dropped to 0-3 against the Western Conference, could use some more practice time to find a better rhythm with O'Neal and all their other new players. They've had only six off days since the regular season started.

King Vlad: Guerrero Voted AL MVP

NEW YORK (AP) -- Vladimir Guerrero had such a huge impact during the final week of the season that voting for the American League Most Valuable Player award wasn't even close.

Guerrero easily defeated his competitors on the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees on Tuesday, becoming just the fifth player to switch leagues and earn the honor in his first season with his new team.

The Anaheim Angels right fielder received 21 of 28 first-place votes and 354 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield finished second with five first-place votes and 254 points.

Guerrero was prepared for a close vote.

"I was in no way expect-

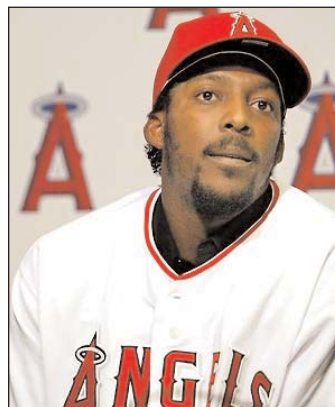
ing it to be the way it came out," he said through a translator during a conference call from the presidential palace in the Dominican Republic.

Guerrero, 28, signed a \$70 million, five-year contract with the Angels last January after eight seasons with the Montreal Expos. He hit .337 with 39 homers and 126 RBIs as Anaheim won the AL West, and led the league with 124 runs and 366 total bases.

He batted .371 in September with 10 homers and 23 RBIs, and went 14-for-30 (.467) with six homers and 11 RBIs in the last six games of the season, helping the Angels finish one game ahead of Oakland.

Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said Guerrero was "at times carrying our team single-handedly."

"When he came to our



AP

Anaheim Angels right fielder Vladimir Guerrero was voted the American League's Most Valuable Player Tuesday.

team, our expectations were obviously very, very high, and he met every one of them," Scioscia said. "Not many players can do what he did the last week."

In Brief

Rock & Roll May Save Your Life

NEW YORK (AP) -- Rocker David Lee Roth, the former Van Halen

frontman, is taking up a new trade.

Instead of screaming,

"Jump," he'll be yelling "Clear!" Roth, 50, has been

riding for several weeks with a New York ambulance crew in training to become a paramedic. "I have been on over 200 individual rides now,"

said Roth. "Not once has anyone recognized me,

which is perfect for me." His training seems to be going well. Several weeks ago,

Roth saved the life of a heart attack victim in the Bronx by using a defibrillator.



Vibe Awards Has Some Bad Vibes

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Reuters) -- One man was stabbed and rapper Dr. Dre

was punched in the nose during a melee at the second

annual Vibe Awards for hip-hop stars at a hangar at Santa

Monica Airport on Monday night, police said. The fight,

in which crowds of people traded punches and hurled

chairs, started when Dr. Dre was punched while waiting

to go on stage to receive a lifetime achievement award

after being introduced by arranger Quincy Jones and

rapper Snoop Dogg. Dre's bodyguards went after the

assailant and fights broke out in the crowd of about 1,000.

The man who was stabbed was not identified but officials

said he was in stable condition and police were hunting for his

attacker.